

# HUGH M. TATE'S REPLY TO CENTRAL LABOR UNION LETTER ASKING ATTITUDE TOWARDS ORGANIZED LABOR



## HUGH M. TATE

A few days ago a committee representing the labor organizations of this vicinity addressed to me, and I suppose to all the candidates for office in the county, a communication asking that our views on certain questions, said to be of interest to labor be given. I made a written reply to said communication and asked permission to publish the letter from the committee and my reply. This permission has been granted by the committee, and the following is, first the communication from the committee, and, second, my reply thereto.

Some people may think that the way to appeal to the working man is through arousing his passions and prejudices, but that very belief shows how little those who entertain it know the real purpose and character of the working man. I maintain that he is as thoughtful and deliberate in his judgment as any other citizen and that he prefers to be appealed to through his reason. This is no time for personalities, no time for prejudices and no time for razing. It is simply a time for choosing our public servants those who seem to be able to do the best service in the positions to which they aspire. I do not appeal to your prejudices. I appeal to your judgment and without further comment, I add hereto the said communications:

### CENTRAL LABOR UNION'S LETTER.

"Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 13, 1918.

"Hon. Hugh M. Tate,  
"Knoxville, Tenn.

"Dear Sir:—

"The Central Labor Union of Knoxville, at a regular meeting held in the Central Labor Union Hall, No. 417½ South Gay St., on Tuesday night, February 7th, 1918, appointed the undersigned committee to wait on all candidates before the Republican Primary of March 21, 1918 for the offices of Chancellor, Criminal Judge, Circuit Judge, Attorney General and Sheriff, in order to ascertain, if possible, the attitude, views and feeling of each of said candidates toward organized labor.

"The rights of thousands of Union Labor members in Knox County might be seriously affected by the abuse of the injunctive power of the courts, the frivolous prosecution of members of Union Labor and the intimidation of and discrimination against members of organized labor by armed officers and guards during labor disputes.

"Therefore, for these reasons the organized labor people of Knoxville and Knox County feel that they are entitled to an expression from each of the candidates for the foregoing offices, which might affect labor as an organization, and this committee respectfully requests an early written reply to this communication.

"Please address your answer to the Chairman of this Committee.

Very respectfully,

J. A. SCANDLYN, Chm.,  
308 W. Clinch Ave.  
W. T. HARRIS,  
F. B. THOMPSON, Com."

### MR. TATE'S LETTER.

"Messrs. J. A. Scandlyn,  
W. T. Harris, and  
F. B. Thompson, Committee.  
Knoxville, Tenn.

Gentlemen:

"I am in receipt of your communication of the 13th inst. asking me as a candidate in the Republican Primary to express my attitude, views and feelings toward organized labor and to answer with particular reference to some matters set out in your communication.

"I take pleasure in replying, and I hope that you will see that my answer is not evasive but that I clearly and squarely reply along the lines of information desired.

1. As to my attitude toward organized labor—I say unhesitatingly that I believe that labor has a perfect right morally, as well as legally to organize. Capital has been organized for many years, and has been able, through such organization, to accomplish results that could not have been accomplished otherwise. Labor should be, and is, given the same right, and any person in any trade desiring to join a labor organization in that trade should be permitted to do so; his joining such an organization should not in the slightest be held against him, and his right so to join if necessary should be protected by clear and positive law.

2. As to the injunctive process—I am glad to say unqualifiedly that I believe the issuance of injunctions should be resorted to just as sparingly and reluctantly as is possible under existing laws. It would be my honest endeavor if nominated and elected Chancellor to obey, construe and uphold every law of our State that may come before me for construction, and where a complainant is able to make a showing that some right of person or property would be damaged or lost unless an injunction were issued, then only, as I understand it, would I be compelled as Chancellor to grant an injunction. Wherever the law would leave it to my discretion, it would be my disposition always to give notice to the opposite side, and if, unfortunately, the exceptional case should arise where the law would compel me to issue a temporary or preliminary injunction without such notice, it would be my purpose immediately to afford speedy hearing when both parties could be represented by counsel at which it might be determined whether such injunction had to remain in force or be dissolved. I am not afraid to say that I do not believe in government by injunction and while I recognize, under the law, that this remedy has its rare proper use, I should honestly endeavor to see to it that, always under the law, injunctive process should be used, and not abused, in my court.

3. As to frivolous prosecution of members of union labor:—Prosecutions, of course, could never be brought in the Chancery Court, and hence I could never have anything to do, one way or the other, with such prosecutions, but that you may see I want to answer every one of your questions, I unhesitatingly say that I denounce any tendency that might ever exist frivolously to prosecute members of labor organizations. If such a thing were undertaken, while, as judge of the Chancery Court, I would have nothing whatever to do with it, as a public spirited citizen I would be glad unhesitatingly to oppose and denounce it.

4. As to intimidation or discriminating against members of organized labor by armed officers and guards, or, for that matter, by anybody else:—I am glad to say that the very words "intimidation" and "discrimination" carry with them an odium that every self-respecting person, whether he be a candidate or not, should feel. The idea of discriminating against, or intimidating any person is, if I know myself, posi-

tively foreign to my nature and timidity one simply because he character, and, certainly, to discriminate against or try to exercise his moral and legal right to become a member of an organization in his trade, would be immoral, sinful and almost criminal.

5. You will readily see that instead of answering in general terms, I have specifically answered your every question, and I do so unhesitatingly and without fear of results, because I know my answers are morally right and just. If there are enemies of organized labor who do not like my expressions, and desire to punish me for them, I cannot help it. Furthermore, I know that I state nothing that is not absolutely within the law. As I said in the very beginning, it would of course always be my endeavor faithfully to construe and uphold the law made for my guidance by the legislative branch of the government, and that would be my guiding star. But I have come to know that the thinking and reasoning members of organized labor and of such organized labor is now almost entirely composed, except nothing from officials except an absolutely square deal. This they would get in my court; they would stand not a particle higher than, but absolutely as high as, the richest man in Knox County, or the greatest capitalist. In other words, they would appear in my court on one side or the other, not as capitalists or labor men, but as citizens, and one would stand just exactly as high as the other, and, unless I am badly mistaken in the temperament and desires of the laboring man, this square deal from an honest official is all that they ask.

6. I believe that "the laborer is worthy of his hire" and those who produce and preserve the wealth of the country should have fair remuneration for such production and preservation. And this is true whether the labor and work are those of both the brain and the brawn of the man on the farm, in the railroads, in the mills or the public works, or whether it be the work, painstaking, time-requiring and health-breaking, of the man at the desk or the professional man who has, through the expenditure of time, energy and money, fitted himself to make a living for his family by that kind of work, and all, in their proper place, are necessary, and all are equally honorable. The man who would not insist for enough properly to care for his family, whether it be as the result of labor in the office, the court room, the shops or the mills, will be equally at fault.

May I be permitted just to say in support of the fact that my clean and unevasive answers above are not just the answers of the candidate for office, that I have never known anything but to respect and admire a working man. When I was born my family had lost everything it had ever owned through the cholera scourge, and my father was running as mail agent on the railroad. He belonged to the nearest thing approaching a union that existed at that time: the Railway Mail Service Mutual Benefit Association. As I grew up when a boy attending the common school I worked on Saturdays, and there are those in my home town, the near-by town of Morristown, who can remember when your present candidate for Chancellor drove a delivery wagon on Saturdays. Before coming to the law school I carried on horseback a rural mail route in Hamblen County. While in the law school I took work on the side at \$25.00 per month to help pay my way.

But these are not reasons why any person should vote for me, but they are reasons why no one should let himself be blinded in an effort to prejudice him against me because I have made good in my profession. There is no one of you men who does not like to hold out to his

children the hope that under our free American system they much success as their ability will permit them to make. may climb and make just as

In fact, there is but one reason why you members of organized labor should vote for me, or for any opponent, and that is, that you believe that the person for whom you vote would best serve you and all your fellow citizens as a judicial officer. On this plea alone, do I request the support of all citizens, and I am just as frank and sincere in asking any citizen who decides that issue against me, to vote for my opponent. This is no time for personalities, for prejudice, or for unkind expressions. It is a time simply to choose "WHO CAN AND WILL BEST SERVE."

I hope that I have answered the questions of your committee satisfactorily; I know that I have answered them honestly and I thank you for the opportunity of expressing myself through you to the members of organized labor.

That you and the members of organized labor may understand that I am not saying a thing to you that I am unwilling for the public to know, I request that if your Committee will so permit, I be allowed to publish your communication to me, and this, my reply. I would not think of abusing your correspondence without your permission, and I regret that my being in rural districts has prevented my getting my reply to you before today.

Very respectfully,

HUGH M. TATE

## OPTIMISM IS DECRIED

Significance in Remarks Made in Storthing Debate.

Stockholm Has Advances That the Power of the Bolsheviks at Petrograd Has Been Shaken.

Christiania, March 6.—The suggestion by the minister of defense that no army maneuvers be held this year, to allow intensive cultivation of the soil, met with determined opposition in the storthing.

In the debate it was declared that the people are too optimistic regarding the military outlook.

Bolshevik Power Shaken.  
Stockholm, March 6.—The power of the bolshevik regime at Petrograd has been shaken by the treaty of peace effected with the central powers.

Reports were received here that both Premier Lenin and Foreign Minister Trotsky may resign.

Fear Nightmare of Bloodshed.  
Copenhagen, March 6.—The German military authorities have decided upon drastic measures to put down disorder in the districts of Russia that they have seized, it was reported. A nightmare of bloodshed is in prospect.

Advices from Petrograd said that the Russo-German treaty had not been ratified, but that this formal action would be forthcoming either late this week or early next.

Turbulence and anarchy prevailing at Petrograd and elsewhere have led to reports that a part of the army would refuse to recognize the treaty and would continue to fight the Germans. This would be a difficult undertaking, if the treaty is ratified by the Soviets, because they represent practically all the units of the Russian army.

## THIRD LOAN MUST BE RAISED

If It Fails, Conscription of Income Will Be Inevitable, Says Representative Rainey.

Washington, March 6.—Conscription of income is inevitable if the next Liberty loan is not a success, Representative Rainey of Illinois, ranking Democratic member of the house ways and means committee, declared.

"Failure of a war loan is unheard of," he said. "If the third Liberty loan fails, the situation must be met with drastic measures. The country never was in better financial condition. Passage of the railroad bill and the war finance corporation bill should smooth the path for the loan by keeping up the prices of securities. The only remedy, in event of the loan's failure, is a proportional conscription of the income of all Americans."

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## TREASON TO OPPOSE WAR

Head of American Federation of Labor Calls Attention to the Point.

## NATION'S LIFE NOW AT STAKE ARE CHIEFLY AT HOBOKEN

Points Out Why the Workers Have an Especial Interest in the Conflict—Continuous Production of Supplies Now Indispensable.

BY SAMUEL GOMPERS.

War means victory for our cause or danger to the very existence of our nation. With our nation at stake, individuals cannot interpose opposition to war—a war declared by the will of the nation's representatives. Under the exigencies of war, opposition to the war declared by constituted authority becomes treason.

While this is true, there is even more than ordinary need for the maintenance of the rights of men and women, and for careful scrutiny and the fullest discussion of policies and methods before their adoption. The time for labor to interpose its needs and contentions is while policies are in the making.

The fighting and the concrete issues of the war are so far removed from the people of our country that not all of our citizens have a full understanding of the issues involved. An understanding of the principles of autocratic force, which the central powers desire to substitute for the real principles of freedom, makes clear to all citizens of this republic the effect of our possible defeat upon their own lives and activities.

In addition to the fundamental principles at issue, labor has an additional interest in the war. This war is in the last analysis a people's war—labor's war. The final outcome will be determined in the factories, the mills, the shops, the mines, the farms, the industries and the transportation agencies of the various countries.

That group of countries which can most successfully organize its agencies of production and transportation and which can furnish the most adequate and effective agencies with which to conduct the war will win. The workers have a part in this war co-equal with the soldiers and sailors on the ships and in the trenches.

Continuous production is an indispensable prerequisite to production of necessary war supplies. The government as well as the workers themselves is vitally interested in maintaining such conditions that there shall be no occasion for interruption in production.

The chief responsible agents of the government have shown a desire to be fair and an understanding of the human elements involved in this problem. The organized labor movement has also shown an equally broad understanding and grasp of the situation.

TO SAM SWAGGERTY, BOY SWAGGERTY, JOHN SWAGGERTY, Heirs of ABNER SWAGGERTY Deceased, LUM SWAGGERTY, MATTIE SWAGGERTY, NANNIE SWAGGERTY

SWAGGERTY Heirs of BOB SWAGGERTY Deceased, CLABE JACKSON, BOB JACKSON, TENNIE JACKSON, HARRIET JACKSON, Heirs of MARTHA SWAGGERTY Deceased.

State of Tennessee, In Chancery Court of Knox County. No. 4824  
Harriet Cunningham et al vs. Carl Cate et al.

In this cause, it appearing from the bill filed, which is sworn to, that the defendants, Sam Swaggerty, John Swaggerty and Boy Swaggerty heirs of Abner Swaggerty deceased, Lum Swaggerty, Mattie Swaggerty, Nannie Swaggerty, and ..... Swaggerty, heirs of Bob Swaggerty, deceased, Clabe Jackson, Tennie Jackson, Harriet Jackson, and Bob Jackson, heirs of Martha Swaggerty, deceased, whose places of residence are unknown and can not be ascertained after diligent inquiry so that the ordinary process cannot be served upon them, it is ordered that said defendants appear before the Chancery Court, at Knoxville, Tennessee on or before the first Monday of April next, and make defense to said bill, or the same will be taken for confessed and the cause set for hearing ex parte as to them. This notice will be published in the Knoxville Independent for four successive weeks.

This 28th day of Feb. 1918

J. C. FORD, Clerk & Master  
W. F. Black, Sol.  
W. F. Miller Sol.  
March 2 9 16 23 1918

## GEO. HEAVEN

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## ASKS AUTHORITY TO TAKE PIERS

President Would Seize Those Owned by German Lines in American Harbors.

## Request Made Through Senate Democratic Leader Martin—Enemy Alien Holdings, Valued in Millions, to Be Sold.

Washington, March 6.—President Wilson asked congress for immediate authority to take over the piers owned by German steamship lines in American harbors.

The request was made through Senator Martin of Virginia, the Democratic leader of the senate, who conferred with the president at the White House.

Upon his return to the capitol senator Martin announced that the request would be embodied in an amendment he will offer to the billion dollar urgent deficiency bill, now before the senate. The piers are principally located at Hoboken, and are largely the property of the Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd lines.

More Information Wanted.  
Prompt response to President Wilson's request for authority to take over the piers was blocked by a demand from members of the senate appropriations committee for more information as to the necessity for legislation for such action.

Members pointed out that under laws already enacted the government has complete authority to use the piers during the war. They expressed opposition to the outright purchase of the piers, if such action is contemplated by the president.

To Sell Enemy Alien Holdings.  
New York, March 6.—Enemy property in business concerns, partly or wholly owned by German or Austrian residents, involving millions of dollars and vast interests, will be placed on private sale, beginning today, it is announced by the general business department of the alien property custodian in this city.

These concerns include many varieties of business enterprises—dye factories, steel and iron plants, and establishments owning large holdings in cotton, metals and wheat. The German-owned interests in individual concerns which are to be sold are worth about \$700,000, according to estimates. No estimate has been made of the value of the business stock to be sold, except that officials say it eventually will "run into millions."

Large Amounts Involved.  
Among the properties that have been taken over are those belonging to the Countess Szechenyi, formerly Gladys Vanderbilt, amounting to \$9,000,000, and the investments, stocks and bonds of Countess Bernstorff, formerly Jeanne Luckenmeyer of New York, amounting to \$900,000.

Joseph A. Bower, head of the department here, in a statement, emphasizes that while the sale will be conducted entirely in private, in every case the price demanded will be equal to the actual value of the property in question.

## HOLD ARMY MORALITY HIGH

Decisions of Courts Martial Prove That Offenders, Upon Conviction, Will Be Dismissed the Service.

Washington, March 6.—Officers found guilty of immorality will not be permitted to remain in the service, it was indicated here. First Lieut. George B. Kinne of the Ohio engineers, N. G., convicted after a general court-martial at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, of having gone several times to an apartment in El Paso, Tex., with a woman not his wife, has been dismissed from the service, the war department announced. The decision of the court-martial was approved by the president. Kinne's home is in Cleveland. Other dismissals have been announced.

## FUSION IN NEXT ELECTIONS

Party Leaders at Washington Think That Few Districts Will Be Affected by Such a Plan.

Washington, March 6.—Congressional leaders here say a party fusion will be effected in districts where there is strong antiwar sentiment which would make for Socialist gains. But as a general thing they do not believe that this will affect many districts. For the most part political lines will be drawn just about as usual, officials believe, although they say that, like all other matters of national concern at present, the president will be supported in any action he might take.

## Records Not Complete.

Washington, March 6.—Records of the statistical section of the war department identify only three of the six American soldiers decorated by Premier Clemenceau. Pittman is a private of infantry. His mother lives at Greenville, S. C. Canby holds a second lieutenant's commission. His next of kin is Caleb H. Canby, 4821 Ellis avenue, Chicago. Smiley, a private, is the son of J. W. Smiley, 1902 Broadway, Hannibal, Mo. No records of Coleman, Norton and Patrick can be found.

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